
Vaccine Storage Basics

1. Keep the refrigerator/freezer plugged in and cold

1. Refrigerators should have separate, sealed refrigerator & freezer compartments
2. Have separate temperature controls for refrigerator & freezer compartments
 - a. Put certified thermometers in the refrigerator and in the freezer
 - b. Check and record the temperature in the refrigerator & freezer twice daily
 - c. Use a safety plug or plug cover to prevent accidental disconnection
 - d. Place “DO NOT UNPLUG” warnings near the outlet and circuit breaker
 - e. Keep water bottles in refrigerator and ice packs in freezer

2. Keep these vaccines in the refrigerator (35° – 46° F or 2° – 8° C)

LAIV	Hep B	Rota
DTaP, Tdap, Td, DT	HPV4	PCV7
Hib	MMR*	PPV23
IPV	MCV4	TIV
Hep A	MPSV4	

- a. Put them in the refrigerator as soon as they arrive

3. Keep these vaccines frozen (5°F or -15°C or lower)

Varicella	MMRV
MMR*	Zoster

- a. Put them in the freezer as soon as they arrive

4. Keep vaccines protected from light

- a. Remove individual dose vials from cardboard package only as needed

5. Do not allow vaccine to expire

- a. Check expiration dates monthly
- b. Place vaccines so those that will expire first are used first
- c. Stock only what you can use in 1– 2 months
- d. For VFC vaccine: call your local health department VFC contact person if any of your VFC vaccine will expire in 3-6 months

6. Transport vaccines correctly

- a. Refrigerated vaccines must be transported in an insulated cooler with a barrier separating the vaccines from the ice/cold packs
- b. Place a thermometer in the cooler to monitor the temperature
- c. Frozen vaccines can only be transported in an insulated cooler with dry ice
- d. Place vaccines appropriately in the refrigerator or freezer immediately upon arrival at the clinic

* MMR vaccine can be stored in the refrigerator or the freezer